



**San Juan River Basin  
Recovery Implementation Program  
Coordination Committee  
Minutes for September 10, 2004**

**Coordination Committee Members**

Joy Nicholopoulos, Chairman

Brent Uilenberg

Bob Krakow

Larry Crist (Alternate) for Henry Maddux

Dan Israel

Susan Jordan

Tom Pitts

John Whipple

Randy Seaholm

Randy Kirkpatrick

Catherine Condon (Alternate) for Scott McElroy

Stanley Pollack

**Hydrology & Biology Committee Members:**

Pat Page, Hydrology Committee

Chuck McAda, Biology Committee

**Others Present:**

Bill Miller

Paul Holden

Joe Muniz

Matt Lavery

Melissa Trammell

David Propst

Steve Harris

Ron Bliesner

Brian Hanson

Joann Perea-Richmann

Jason Davis

Ernie Teller

**Representing:**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico  
Ecological Services Field Office

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Jicarilla Apache Nation

Water Development Interests

State of New Mexico

Colorado Water Conservation Board

San Juan Water Commission

Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Navajo Nation

**Representing:**

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6,  
Colorado

**Representing:**

Miller Ecological Consultants Inc.

Jicarilla Apache Nation

Jicarilla Apache Nation

Public Service Company of New Mexico

National Park Service

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Water Development

Keller Bliesner Engineering, Bureau of Indian  
Affairs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico  
Ecological Services Field Office

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico  
Ecological Services Field Office

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NM Fishery  
Resources Office

U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs –Navajo Indian  
Irrigation Project

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL MAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MEETING MINUTES**

The committee reviewed the minutes, which will be updated and posted on the web.

### **ACTION ITEMS DISCUSSED FROM MAY MEETINGS**

The process of distributing final Biological Assessments (BA) to the committee was discussed. Joy Nicholopoulos (Joy) said coordination with Region 6 of the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) may be necessary before (FWS) is able to send out final BAs. The FWS should be able to send BAs out in a timely manner via e-mail or mail.

Concerning the Durango reimbursement, Region 6, FWS is ok with funds being returned. The Coordination Committee (CC) agreed that reimbursement to Region 6 FWS in the amount of \$50,000 would be returned. A letter from the FWS, Region 2, will be composed to amend the Biological Opinion (BO).

### **FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION CAPITAL FUND UPDATE**

Randy Seaholm indicated he still needs the Fish and Wildlife Foundation Integration Report and accounting statement. Brent Uilenberg will follow-up and provide it to Randy.

### **UPDATE ON BIOLOGY COMMITTEE (BC)**

Chuck McAda provided the Committee with a summary of the BC meeting:

- The BC felt that the Propagation Coordinator duties could be accomplished by the Program Coordinator but are questioning a full-time position.
- The integration report is being revised with new information provided by the committee to include flow recommendations. The final draft should be out within the next couple of weeks.
- Capital Projects for FY05-FY08 consists of fish passageways diversions, and construction of ponds.

### **UPDATE ON PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

Brian Hanson announced that the position of the Program Coordinator position was advertised at a GS-13 full-time position. If the committees decides to go with a part-time coordinator or the coordinator be based in Farmington rather than Albuquerque, the position would have to be re-advertised. FWS was asked if it would be contributing in-kind funds to the program as they have in the past. Joy stated that FWS no longer receives separate funds from the Regional Office for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (SJRIP). Therefore, FWS would not be able to contribute. After discussion the Coordination Committee made a motion that a full-time Program Coordinator and Program Assistant are essential for the SJRIP program. *The vote passed 9 to 1 in favor of the motion.* Brian will proceed with a panel committee for the interviewing and selection process.

### **FISCAL YEAR 2005 (FY) STATEMENT OF WORK (SOW'S) REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

The Coordination Committee asked Chuck McAda for further explanation on the BC annual work plan, budgets and cuts. Chuck stated that the (BC) reviewed the Statement of Work and made proposed cuts in some of the areas. The funding of the program management costs within FWS and BoR was discussed.

The question arose as to whether money was still in the budget for the Program Coordinator and Program Assistant position for much of FY04. It was stated that in the past FWS had put money into the program as part of in-kind contribution. The biology committee stated that if further cuts were needed, all projects should take a 2% cut across the board.

Chuck explained the areas in which cuts could be done without it affecting the program. Most of the money reflected was found to be money left over from FY04. The areas are as follows:

Peer Review (funds left from FY04)	\$25,000
Nonnative Species Monitoring and Control	\$10,000
Razorback Sucker Augmentation and Monitoring	\$12,000
Holding Facility for Larval Razorback Sucker at UNM	<u>\$9,430</u>
Total of:	\$56,430

Pit tags were also discussed and the BC is requesting that capital funds be used to purchase them in FY05. The Coordination Committee voted and agreed that pit tags could be purchased for FY05 only and next year pit tags would have to be purchased differently.

After discussion on FY05 budget the Coordination Committee conditionally approved the Statement of Work (SOWs) for the Hydrology Committee and Program Management (BoR) for FY04.

Note: In the event FY05 SOWs do not equal \$2.129M after adjustments are made, the Coordination Committee agreed that a total of 2% cuts across the board would be required. Any amount different than that will require requests come back to the Coordination Committee for discussion.

#### **DEMONSTRATION ON POPULATION MODEL**

The model was developed by Bill Miller, Vince Lamarra and Paul Goldstein for the San Juan and Navajo Rivers. Bill gave a short briefing on the model which showed fish stocking, tracking, growth rates, population and length and biomass. The model allows features such as:

- run times specifies the number of weeks for the run (which is a three year effort)
- pausing during the year for stocking
- stop time (running counter) to see where work is being done
- the lower part output cable is still working on the interface and is basically an accounting for what's on the front level
- individual species components which monitor the years
- stocking rates of fish can be changed

#### **CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR FY05 THRU FY08**

Brent Uilenberg stated that the following SOWs still need to be completed:

- Evaluating Hogback entrainment
- Passage of the Arizona Public Service (APS) diversion
- Passage of the Fruitland diversion

He also indicated that reports and SOWs will tell us if there are any significant problems which will require capital projects fix, such as fish screens or fish passage. Field work should be completed by the end of early calendar year FY05 and the earliest fix times

will be in FY06.

#### **NAVAJO RESERVOIR BIOLOGICAL OPINION (BO) UPDATE**

Brian Hanson stated that the BO has not been finalized and is still in the solicitors' office for review.

#### **DROUGHT CONTINGENCIES UPDATE**

John Whipple stated that last years maintenance flows helped deal with the drought. John has concerns that in the event the drought continues, we will need to consider alternatives in 2005 to the flow recommendations. He asked that the BC and HC have this as an agenda item to start discussing other alternatives.

#### **BUREAU OF RECLAMATION (BoR) NEW CONTRACTING PROCEDURE CONCERNS**

Dan Israel stated that the BC and HC committees have concerns with the new contract process. The BoR has stated that any new contracts will need to go through an RFP process and be open to bids. The concerns that the committee members raised were:

- If a project takes 2 or 3 years to complete, will contracts have to re-advertised every year? It was also mentioned by the contracting personnel at BoR that if someone from the committee's intends on bidding for one of these contracts they cannot have any part in the write up of Request for Proposals (RFPs).
- Another question which came up was in the event the above is being done, can tribal communities submit 638s?

Brent Uilenberg stated that this is not a BoR policy but is coming from the National level. Dan Israel stated he would follow-up with BoR to see what can be done in the best interest of the program.

#### **HYDROLOGY COMMITTEE UPDATES (HC)**

Pat Page provided the coordination committee with the following and indicated that they will be meeting September 15, 2004.

- Generation 3 (Gen3) model will be completed by the end FY04.
- O&M funds have been extended through this year for model runs and technical transfer.
- They are currently testing 2 new projects (Jicarilla and Long Hollow) with the Gen3 model.
- Pat reported that the HC will meet September 15, 2004 and will discuss the documentation for the model and FY05 SOWs funding issues and report back to the Coordination Committee.
- The handout for Recommendations for Conducting and/or Requesting Model Runs (Section 7) was discussed. The committee suggested that item #6 be re-worded to include the following "Service requests Reclamation to review the model runs". Pat will send a revised copy to Joann to circulate to the Coordination Committee.

#### **FLOW RECOMMENDATIONS ADDENDUM PROVIDED BY RANDY SEAHOLM, COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**

The Fish & Wildlife Service was asked specifically by Colorado whether or not the satisfaction of flow recommendations would be allowed to control water development in the San Juan River Basin. The Service stated no. Colorado agreed, as did other

program participants. Colorado expressed concern with the way consultations were being handled by the Service. In this regard and with the way that some program participants were commenting on BA's hoped that the message would be conveyed to all that satisfaction of the flow recommendations was not required in order to obtain consultation and project permits.

#### **LONG RANGE PLAN UPDATE**

Tom Pitts and Brent Uilenberg volunteered to review the Long Term Plan at the May meeting. They found that the work plan and long range plan are inconsistent. Their recommendation is to reformat the long range plan and the budget into activities to reflect what is done in the program. The conclusion after the discussion is to have the committee submit their comments to Tom Pitts or Brent Uilenberg by October 12, 2004. After comments are entered another DRAFT of the Long Term Plan will be forwarded to the committee for approval at the January 11, 2004 meeting.

#### **PROGRAM DOCUMENT DATED OCTOBER 29, 2002 REVIEW**

Brian Hanson stated only a few comments were received. The committee decided that the Program Document was out of date and that more time would need to be taken to fix it. It was agreed that Joann would input any comments in which FWS received and when the Program Coordinator is in place he/she would update this further.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

1. FWS (Joy/Brian) will check with FWS Region 6, Colorado on final BA for Long Hollow and once it's been received it will then be mailed out.
2. Brian Hanson will check to see if program participants can sit in on a panel interview for the new Program Coordinator.
3. Brian Hanson will check into funds for the Program Coordinator and Program Assistant remaining from the FY04 funds and reflect the amount in FY05 SOWs.
4. Brent Uilenberg and Tom Pitts will continue to update the Long Term Plan.
5. Joann will update the Program Document with revisions that have been received to date. The new Program Coordinator will be responsible for updating this once on board.
6. Brian Hanson will check on any final BAs that have been transmitted to the FWS. FWS will mail them out to the Coordination Committee.
7. Dan Israel will report to the Coordination Committee on the possibility of using 638's for contacting with BoR.
8. Pat Page from the Hydrology Committee will update item #6 on SJRIP Recommendations for conducting and/or requesting model runs handout, then forward to Joann.
9. Selected SJRIP Program Coordinator will compose a letter to amend the BO to return unused funds for Durango.
10. Comments from committee for the Long Range Plan are due to Tom Pitts or Brent Uilenberg by October 12, 2004 via list serve.

**Next meeting** – January 11, 2005, 9 am – 4 pm, in Farmington at the Civic Center.  
Note: A change in meeting date is pending.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:20 pm